

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, June 17, 2005

POLICE INCREASE ENFORCEMENT OF PROOF OF VEHICLE INSURANCE LAW

As part of a concerted effort to reduce the number of motorists who do not have required vehicle insurance in DC, the MPDC is stepping up its enforcement of a District law that requires motor vehicle operators to show proof of insurance. Effective immediately, when Metropolitan Police officers conduct traffic stops or have other contacts in which officers would normally ask for a driver's license and registration, the officer will also ask for proof of insurance. Under DC law, proof of insurance is defined as "a document issued by an insurance company that lists the name of the insurance company, the policy number, the name or names of the insured, and the period of coverage for the insurance." Failure to provide proof of insurance can result in a \$300 fine. From June 15 through July 15, 2005, MPDC officers will be issuing warning notices only to violators. Beginning July 16, 2005, officers will enforce the civil fine that is attached to this infraction.

① Read the full news release at:
[http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/
newsroom.asp?sid=3229](http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3229)

① For other traffic safety resources
in DC, visit:
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,
548131,mpdcNav_GID,1547.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,548131,mpdcNav_GID,1547.asp)

MPDC STEPS UP ENFORCEMENT OF PEDESTRIAN SAFETY LAWS

To help keep pedestrians in DC safe, the MPDC over the next few weeks will be stepping up enforcement of traffic laws that pertain to pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Police have received funding from the District Department of Transportation to support overtime operations designed to combat pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and injuries. Each year in the District, pedestrians account for an average of 14 fatalities and nearly 800 injuries. Eight pedestrians have been killed so far this year, and four bicyclists were killed in 2004. The program, which will focus on speeding and aggressive drivers, is designed to alert motorists to the role they play in pedestrian safety. No less important, police will also be on the lookout for risky and illegal pedestrian behaviors, such as crossing against signals and disrupting the flow of traffic. Bicyclists who run red lights, ride the wrong way on the street, or ride on downtown sidewalks will also be targeted. Police will focus on intersections with a history of pedestrian and bicycle crashes throughout the city. The enforcement effort is the first since the District amended its pedestrian safety law to require drivers to stop, not simply yield, to pedestrians in crosswalks where there are no traffic signals. The MPDC pedestrian safety enforcement effort will be repeated in several waves throughout the year.

① The enforcement wave
complements the regional Street
Smart initiative, a \$350,000
advertising campaign to raise
awareness of pedestrian and
bicycle safety. Details at:
<a href=[http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/
newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3208](http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3208)

UPDATE ON DC'S RED-LIGHT CAMERA PROGRAM

Nearly six years ago, the MPDC activated its first red-light intersection safety camera at the corner of New York Avenue and 4th Street, NW. During the first month of operation, August 1999, that one camera captured nearly 7,600 red-light running violations. Almost six years later, the number of violations captured by that one camera has declined by more than 74 percent, to 1,951 violations in May 2005. The traffic safety improvements at that Northwest intersection have been repeated at intersections across the District that are equipped with red-light cameras. The MPDC currently has 39 red-light intersection safety cameras in all seven police districts. Combined, the number of red-light running violations captured by the cameras at these intersections has declined by nearly 70 percent since the beginning of the program. That is equivalent to approximately 26,000 fewer red-light running violations a month at just those 39 intersections. Most crashes involving red-light running are side impact (or "T-bone") collisions. Because these type of crashes typically have the greatest likelihood of causing serious injury or death, the dramatic reductions in red-light running violations has contributed to important safety improvements on DC's roadways. The reduction in red-light running violations has also resulted in reductions in the number of automated red-light tickets generated in DC. In May 2000, more than 11,100 tickets were mailed and more than 9,100 paid, resulting in \$770,000 in fines. In May 2005, by contrast, 7,100 tickets were mailed and about 5,100 paid, resulting in \$456,000 in fines.

JUNE IS INTERNET SAFETY MONTH

Recognizing a need to "educate the people of the United States on the dangers of the Internet and the importance of being safe and responsible online," Congress designated June 2005 as National Internet Safety month. As Internet use in the United States continues to rise, so does the concern over Internet safety. Internet crimes — including cyberstalking, cyberbullying, child pornography, Internet fraud, and identity theft — are problems that Internet users now face. Fortunately, despite all of the opportunities for criminals to use the Internet to prey on their victims, there are also many techniques and precautions that Internet users, children and adults, can take to avoid victimization and maintain privacy online.

NEWS & NOTES

Talk with Chief Ramsey on June 21 and 22. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls during two upcoming media appearances: from 6:40-7 pm on Tuesday, June 21, on WHUR-96.3 FM radio; and from 4-5 pm on Wednesday, June 22, on WOL 1450-AM.

Camp Brown Fundraiser. On Friday, June 24, the Chief's Citizens Advisory Council and the Joseph K. Smith Memorial Summer Camp Fund will host a fundraiser at the Washington Navy Yard, 8th & M Streets, SE, to benefit Camp Ernest W. Brown. Proceeds will be used to send youth to the camp in Scotland, Md., construct additional cabins, and repair hurricane damage. Tickets are \$40 each, and all are invited to attend. For more information, contact any of the following CAC members: George W. Fenderson, Chair, (202) 291-6727; Stanley J. Mayes, Treasurer, (202) 773-3217; or Rev. Thomas S. Alston, Secretary, (202) 584-4431.

April Court Reports. Each month, the US Attorney's Community Prosecution Unit publishes a report that summarizes significant cases that were prosecuted in each police district. April reports are now available at http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Community_Prosecution/Court_Reports/index.html.

① Get complete information about the program, including the locations of all red-light intersection safety cameras, at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547886,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,1.asp

① To further extend the traffic safety benefits of this program, the MPDC is adding 11 more red-light intersection safety cameras. The Department has not installed a new red-light camera since September 2000.

① The MPDC's other automated traffic enforcement program, photo radar, has contributed to dramatic reductions in speeding in DC. Details at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547970,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,1.asp

① In recognition of National Internet Safety Month, the National Criminal Justice Reference Service has prepared a compilation of Internet safety resources. To learn more and access these free resources, go to:
<http://www.ncjrs.org/internetsafety>

① Identity theft remains one of the most common Internet crimes. Useful information on preventing identity theft is available at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,543161,mpdcNav_GID,1555.asp

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 6/17/05
◆ 2005: 78	
◆ 2004: 85	
◆ % Change: -8.2%	
◆ Closure Rate: 53.8% (42 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 6/11/05
◆ Total: 892	
◆ Drugs: 145	
◆ Weapons: 14	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 7	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 57	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 6/11/05
◆ Arrests: 67	
◆ Curfew Violations: 117	
◆ Truants: 55	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 6/15/05
◆ June: 55	
◆ 2005 Total: 1,130	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 6/17/05
◆ 2005: 20	
◆ 2004: 25	
◆ % Change: --20.0%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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